Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A playback system ~~method~~ for playing audio data from a storage device, the audio data containing an access unit, the playback system comprising:

~~receiving an access unit of audio data from the storage device;~~

a system circuit for determining a number of substreams present in the access unit;

a depacketizer circuit coupled to the system circuit for depacketizing the access unit; and

a decoder core,

wherein ~~transmitting~~ the depacketized access unit is transmitted directly to the ~~a~~ decoder core without buffering[[;]],

the decoder core decodes ~~decoding~~ the depacketized access unit ~~by the decoder core~~ for a first substream of the access unit if the number of the substreams is more than one[[;]], and

the decoder core decodes ~~decoding~~ the depacketized access unit ~~by the same decoder core~~ for a second substream of the access unit after the first substream is decoded if the number of the substreams is more than one.

19. (Currently amended) The playback system ~~method~~ of claim 18, wherein the storage device is of DVD-Audio format.

20. (Currently amended) The playback system ~~method~~ of claim 19, wherein the ~~decoding~~ decoder decodes the first substream ~~comprises~~ in part by extracting a restart header for determining timing for ~~executing the~~ decoding the second substream.

21. (Currently amended) The playback system ~~method~~ of claim 20, wherein the ~~decoding~~ decoder decodes the first substream and the ~~decoding~~ the second substream ~~both comprise~~ using Meridian Lossless Packing ® (MLP) decoding.

22. (Currently amended) The playback system ~~method~~ of claim 19, wherein the depacketizer performs ~~the~~ depacketizing comprising ~~comprises~~:

reading a major sync;

reading a minor sync; and

reading a substream directory so as to determine the number of the substreams present in the access unit.

23. (Currently amended) The playback system ~~method~~ of claim 22, wherein the ~~depacketizing, the decoding the first substream and the decoding the second substream~~ depacketizer and the decoder core are implemented in a digital signal processor.